



**City of
Rolling Hills Estates
310-377-1577**

Summer 2007



Be cart smart

In April of 2005, Waste Management rolled out a new three-cart system for Rolling Hills Estates residents. This system makes it easy for residents to recycle household plastic and glass containers, cans, and paper, as well as greenwaste. As a result, we saw a substantial increase in waste diversion, with Rolling Hills Estates residents consistently keeping more than 60 percent of their waste out of the trash carts and out of landfills.

Be sure to follow these guidelines as you fill your three carts:

1. **Trash** goes into your grey cart. All materials must fit inside your carts.
2. **Greenwaste** goes into your green cart. Acceptable greenwaste includes grass clippings, leaves, brush, shrubby prunings, sawdust, tree trimmings, and tree limbs smaller than 4" in diameter. Branches can be bundled with twine and left next to your green cart.

Please DO NOT mix any of these items with your greenwaste: palm fronds, cactus or yucca, dirt or rocks, plastic or paper bags, pet waste, and food waste.

During fall leaf season, you have several extra options. First, you may request an additional greenwaste cart free of charge. Second, you may place the extra leaves into your own clean container. Third, you may also set out leaves and other yard maintenance debris for bulky item pickup. All RHE residents are eligible for four free bulky item pickups each year. Fourth, from October through February *only*, you may put greenwaste into plastic yard waste bags and set them next to your green cart.

3. **Recyclables** go into your blue cart. You can recycle all of these items:
 - Newspapers and inserts
 - White and colored paper
 - Cardboard, including food and shoe

- boxes
- Junk mail, magazines, catalogs, and telephone books
- Paper bags
- Egg cartons
- Tissue paper (gift wrap and dry



- cleaning paper)
- Cans
- Glass bottles and jars
- Plastic bags
- Detergent containers
- Plastic bottles and jugs

Please remember that the following items are NOT recyclable and should be placed into your trash cart: aluminum foil, scrap metal, window or safety glass, mirrors, light bulbs, Styrofoam, wax paper, ceramics, drinking glasses, plastic wrap, food waste, packaging materials, and Pyrex glass.

Remember—no hazardous waste of any kind, such as batteries, paint, and antifreeze, no tires, and no electronic waste can go into any of your curbside containers. All of these items must be dropped off at a special facility (see Page 4), or, in the case of electronic waste, picked up curbside as a bulky item.

By placing all of your greenwaste and recyclables into your green and blue carts, you will be able to decrease the amount of refuse that you need to place into your trash cart, allowing you to

switch to a smaller cart and save money! For details about what a smaller trash cart will save you, go to www.keepingrheclean.com/guidelines.html or call Customer Service at 310-677-6500 or 1-800-774-0222.

If you have more greenwaste and recyclables than will fit into your existing carts, you may call Customer Service to request additional greenwaste and recycling carts. There is no charge for additional recycling or greenwaste carts.



Celebrating 50 years!

Rolling Hills Estates is celebrating 50 years of "country living with style" with a year of events! On April 14, the City kicked off its celebration with A Taste of RHE, followed by the Mayor's Breakfast Ride and Concert in the Park on May 5, and the Palos Verdes Street Fair on June 2 and 3. Events will continue through the end of the year.

Here are some of the great activities that are coming up:

- Friday-Sunday, July 13-15 — Tracy Austin Doubles Tennis Tournament, Ernie Howlett Park and the Jack Kramer Tennis Club
- Friday-Sunday, July 13-15 — 50th Annual Las Amigas De Las Lomas Horse Show, Ernie Howlett Park
- Saturday, August 11 — The Hills Are Alive 5K/10K Race, Ernie Howlett Park
- Thursday-Sunday, September 6-9 — 50th Annual Portuguese Bend National Horse Show, Ernie Howlett Park



- Saturday, September 15 — 50th Annual City Celebration, Empty Saddle Club
- Saturday, December 1 — Peninsula Holiday Parade of Lights, Commercial District (Silver Spur Road & Deep Valley Drive)

Rolling Hills Estates was incorporated in 1957, becoming Los Angeles County's 60th municipality. In that first year, the City's population totaled only 3,500, but its new citizens were united in their desire to maintain its unique rural atmosphere characterized by rolling hills, vast open spaces, and three-rail white fences.

Today, the City is home to just over 8,000 residents who live in 30 neighborhood areas within the community,

each with its own special character and style. As in the past, today's emphasis in managing the City is placed upon preserving its rural residential character and, at the same time, providing the best possible services to its citizens.

Curbside **oil and oil filter collection** is available on your regular service day (Wednesday). Oil must be placed *next to* your trash cart in a Waste Management disposal container, which is available from Waste Management. Used oil filters should be placed in clear plastic bags. Your full oil container will be exchanged with a clean container, which will be left at the curb next to your empty trash cart.

For more information or to schedule a pickup, call Customer Service at 310-677-6500 or 1-800-774-0222 at least 24 hours before your collection day.



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PAID
Permit No. 100
Gardena, CA

10 Tips for summertime shopping

Ahhh...summertime. Family vacations, lounging by the pool, picnics with friends, and back-to-school shopping. Whether you're getting ready for school yourself, getting someone else ready for school, or just taking care of your own summer shopping, there are things that you can do before, during, and after your shopping trip to reduce your waste, improve our environment, and save money, too.

1. Clean out your closets and cabinets. If you are sending a student off to college, you may find that you have plenty of towels and sheets without buying new ones. If you're sending a student back to school, you might discover unused notebooks, pens, and pencils or remember that last year's backpack is in great shape. If you're shopping for housewares, garden supplies, or even food, you may learn that what you need is already sitting on your shelf!
2. Organize what you already own. We've all watched those organization shows on TV. How many times have you watched someone find more than one iced-tea maker or enough white T-shirts or tank tops to clothe everyone on the block? While most of us aren't quite that organization-challenged, we often have some area—a junk drawer, a pantry shelf, or a laundry room

closet—that could use some attention. When you organize what you have, you'll find things you can still use. This is also a great way to find the stuff you no longer want that you could sell or give away.



3. No matter where you are shopping, plan ahead and make a list. Going to the hardware store? Make a list. Going to a clothing store? Make a list. We all know that we make fewer impulse purchases at the grocery store when we shop from a list—the same is true at other kinds of stores, as well.
4. Shop for reused items first. Before you hit the mall, check the neighborhood garage sales or stop by thrift stores or secondhand shops. You can find clothes, shoes, appliances, books, toys, games, office supplies, household goods, and more.
5. Look for recycled-content products. Since it is back-to-school season, paper is a great place to start. The average American uses 660 pounds of paper each year. Recycled-content notebooks, loose-

leaf paper, and printer paper are readily available, high-quality, and cost-competitive. Making new paper from recycled paper creates 74 percent less air pollution and 35 percent less water pollution than making the same paper directly from trees. And don't forget recycled-content tissues and paper towels. These items are often on school supply lists. You'll be teaching a great lesson to the whole class by sending recycled-content tissues or paper towels to school.

6. Paper isn't the only recycled-content product, of course! Look for pens, pencils, scissors, rulers, file folders, binders, storage containers, jewelry, and outerwear, such as fleece pullovers and scarves, to name just a few. If you don't find recycled-content alternatives, tell the store manager that you want them. The store may be able to order them for you now or stock them in the future.
7. Select durable, reusable products that also reduce your waste or energy use at home. For example, if you have a drying rack, you won't need to use your dryer and you might be able to avoid the iron, as well. When you purchase electrical appliances or electronics, look for the Energy Star label, which guarantees you an energy-efficient product. Choose reusables, such as refillable mugs and insulated cold cups. Many stores will refill your mug or cup—sometimes at a slightly discounted price.
8. Shop for food and flowers at Farmers Markets. These markets provide fresh food without extra transportation or excess packaging. Wouldn't it be nice to enjoy fruits and vegetables without throwing away a lot of plastic bags and containers? National Farmers Market Week is August 5-11, so go out and show your support for our



local farmers. For more information about Farmers Markets or to locate them here or as you travel, go to www.ams.usda.gov/farmersmarkets/.

9. Avoid non-recyclable packaging. Know what to recycle so that you can select products packaged in locally recyclable containers as you shop. Remember—the word “recyclable” on a package doesn't necessarily mean that we accept the item in our local recycling program.
10. Say “no thanks” to overly packaged items. Ask yourself, “If I buy this item, how many layers of packaging are going to go straight into my trash or recycling?” If your answer is more than two, see whether an alternative product is available that has less packaging.



Learn more! Do more!

Buy Wisely, a program of the Center for the New American Dream
www.NewDream.org/buy

Greener Choices: Products for a Better Planet, a project of Consumer Reports
www.greenerchoices.org

The Green Guide, a service of National Geographic
www.thegreenguide.com



Get Reel

A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken.

James Dent

A gas-powered lawn mower, with its noise and noxious fumes, can certainly take the shine off a perfect summer day. However, there is a mower that will keep your lawn trimmed and still allow you to enjoy the birds and the breeze—a reel mower.

A reel mower is a manual lawn mower. Unlike the reel mowers of 50 years ago, today's reel mowers are lightweight and easy to push. Here are just a few of the great reasons to use a reel mower:

- Reel mowers leave behind healthier grass plants because they “snip” the

grass, cutting it in the same way that a pair of scissors would. (Powered rotary mowers actually tear the grass blades.)

- Reel mowers don't need gasoline, so an empty gas can will never change your plans.
- Reel mowers produce no harmful emissions and emit no exhaust into your face and your neighborhood's air.
- It goes without saying that reel mowers are whisper quiet, allowing you to hear your children playing and enjoy the birds chirping. You can still listen to your MP3 player, but you won't have to!
- Users get to enjoy a brisk walk and some resistance training.
- Reel mowers are virtually maintenance-free. Occasionally, the bearings and cutting edges may need a little lubricant and a slight adjustment. The cutters will need to be sharpened every couple of years.

You'll never struggle with the pull cord on a reel mower. Simply start walking and the mower starts, too. Reel mowers take less space in the garage or shed and take less of a bite out of your budget.

A reel mower isn't right for every yard. The mowers are best suited to smaller yards, such as those that are 10,000 square feet (about one-quarter acre) or less. Many of today's yards are no bigger than this.

As yards have gotten smaller, reel mowers have begun to make a comeback. An estimated 350,000 reel mowers were sold in the U.S. last year—up from about 100,000 five years ago. About two-thirds of the customers purchasing reel mowers are women.

If you'd like more information about reel mowers, ask at your hardware store, garden center, or home supply store. You can also learn more at www.cleanairgardening.com/reellawnmower.html, www.planetnatural.com, www.reelin.com, or www.reelmowerguide.com/.



NO IMPACT MAN

A New York man and his family are in the middle of a year-long experiment. Their goal is to find ways to create no net environmental impact. This means giving up most activities and habits that create negative impacts and offsetting the ones they can't give up with positive changes, such as cleaning out closets and giving away reusable clothes and books, volunteering for beach cleanups, and planting trees.

Having dubbed himself "No Impact Man," Colin Beavan, his wife, small daughter, and dog began their adventure last November in stages. Stage 1 was to eliminate garbage by avoiding disposable products and giving up everything that had packaging. Stage 2 added a twist, creating the least amount of environmental impact in selecting and preparing food for baby, dog, and parents. Stage 3 takes the next step, finding ways to reduce consumption to only what is absolutely necessary and then learning how to make or

acquire those things most sustainably. At each stage, the challenges increase.

Friends have questioned whether No Impact Man and his family have any hope of accomplishing their goal while living in New York City. They claim he'd be better off living in a rural area where gardening and composting are more convenient. However, Beavan responds, "The fact is that if city dwellers can't learn to live without reducing their ecological footprint, then we're in deep trouble because most of the world's population now lives in cities." In the United States, more than 68 percent of Americans live in cities with populations greater than 50,000.

No Impact Man records his trials and errors in a blog, inviting dialogue with people from around the world. In his blog, he muses on everything from plastics to finding a garden plot to composting toilets. Beavan is writing a book, which will be published in 2009, about his fam-



ily's year-long experiment. A documentary is also being produced. Read more about this family's adventures in no-impact living at www.noimpactman.com.

If you're interested in the experiments of other families trying to create a more positive impact, visit www.pathtofreedom.com. This website is devoted to the Dervaes family's "urban homestead" on a 1/5-acre urban lot in Pasadena, California.

QUOTES REQUOTED

My mind is conditioned to believe that if I can't have it right now—RIGHT NOW!—then I'm deprived. [But] is being able to have something at a moment's notice real progress?

Colin Beavan
Author and "No Impact Man"

Books for a better world

Take a couple of college friends, piles of textbooks, and a need for cash, and what do you get? In the case of roommates Xavier Helgesen and Christopher "Kreece" Fuchs, the answer was to sell the books online and to begin selling books for others. Within a year, they had organized a campus-wide book drive, collecting over 2,000 books for reuse and raising \$8,000 for an after-school reading program sponsored by the University of Notre Dame.

With help from a third former roommate, Jeff Kurtzman, Helgesen and Fuchs decided to take the good idea and turn it into a business, which is how Better World Books was born. The business, founded in 2003, assists colleges and universities, as well as libraries, in organizing book drives, selling reusable books, and donating a portion of the proceeds to literacy organizations.

To date, more than 900 colleges and universities and 500 libraries have taken part, collecting over 3 million books

weighing more than 8 million pounds. Many of the books would have otherwise ended up in landfills, but not with Better World Books in charge. Some of the books are sold through the company's

Room to Read, National Center for Family Literacy, and Worldfund. All of the books that cannot be sold or reused are recycled.

Describing itself as a "for-profit social venture," Better World Books earns money by the sale of reusable books. However, financial profit isn't the only motive; the company also strives to generate a "social profit" by contributing to improvements in literacy in the U.S. and around the world. Since its

inception, Better World Books has donated \$1.3 million to 70 non-profits that promote literacy and education. The non-profits are usually selected by the organizations running the local book drives. More than 450,000 books have been donated to Books for Africa and the National Center for Family Literacy. In addition, over \$475,000 has gone back to the college and university service clubs and library volunteer organizations that have run the book drives.

For more information about Better World Books, visit www.betterworldbooks.com or e-mail info@betterworldbooks.com.



website, www.betterworld.com, and others are sold through other online book-sellers, such as Amazon.com. Reusable books go directly to the partner literacy organizations, including Books for Africa,



BetterWorld
BOOKS

What's in your closet?

Or maybe it's under your kitchen sink or on a garage shelf or hiding in the basement? Look around and, chances are, you'll find some "household hazardous waste" (HHW). HHW includes old chemicals that your family no longer wants or needs, as well as outdated products.

Even though HHW is a kind of waste, it should never go into your household trash! Not only can HHW contaminate the soil and water near landfills, but

it can also harm the workers who pick up and handle your trash. When hazardous waste is mixed with household trash, toxic fumes and burning liquids can injure trash workers. And, flammable materials can even cause explosions inside the trash trucks.

HHW requires special disposal to be sure that workers and our environment are kept safe. Rolling Hills Estates residents may drop off household hazardous

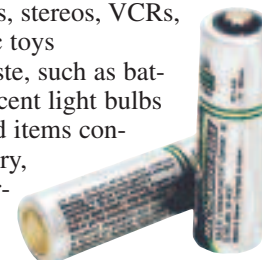
waste, along with electronic waste and universal waste, at the Gaffey Street S.A.F.E. Collection Center, located at 1400 N. Gaffey Street, San Pedro. This Center is open Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

At the Gaffey Street S.A.F.E. Collection Center, you can drop off all of these items:

- Automotive fluids, including motor oil and antifreeze
- Lawn and garden chemicals, such as fertilizer, plant food, weed killers, and bug killers
- Household cleaners, such as oven cleaner, furniture polish, and tub and tile cleaners
- Hobby and home improvement products, such as paints, glues, photographic chemicals, and pool chemicals
- Fuels, including gasoline and kerosene
- Personal care products, such as fingernail polish, fingernail polish remover, and aerosols
- Medications, including prescription and over-the-counter drugs
- Household and automotive batteries



- E-waste, including computers, monitors, printers, network equipment, cables, telephones, televisions, microwaves, video games, cell phones, radios, stereos, VCRs, and electronic toys
- Universal waste, such as batteries, fluorescent light bulbs and tubes, and items containing mercury, including thermostats and thermometers



There is no charge to drop off these items. Please keep them in their original, labeled containers, if possible. Do not mix chemicals together. When loading these items into your car or van, place them into a cardboard box in the trunk or in the very back, as far away from passengers as possible. Do not overload your vehicle—it is against the law to transport more than 15 gallons or 125 pounds of hazardous waste to collection sites during a single visit. Don't smoke while transporting hazardous chemicals.

Please, NO business waste, ammunition, explosives, radioactive material, biological waste or tires, furniture, refrigerators, washers and dryers, conventional ovens, paper, or computer software.

For more information, visit www.lacity.org/san/solid_resources/pdfs/safe-gaffey-flyer_english.pdf or call 1-800-98-TOXIC (1-800-988-6942).



Good horses, good neighbors



Rolling Hills Estates takes pride in its equestrian lifestyle and rural atmosphere. However, even our horses need to be good neighbors.

If horse manure is left on the ground, it contributes to urban runoff pollution. Urban runoff, propelled by rain and irrigation, carries pollutants through the storm drains and directly out into the ocean. Polluted runoff contaminates the ocean, leading to beach closures and harming aquatic life, and also increases the risk of inland flooding because of clogged catch basins and gutters. Animal waste is a particularly harmful element of urban runoff because it contains bacteria that can make swimmers sick and

also nutrients that can alter the delicate balance of our water's ecosystem.

The Rolling Hills Estates Municipal Code requires that manure be kept in an enclosed container and removed at least once per week. In order to help residents dispose of horse manure properly, Waste Management offers convenient weekly pickup. Six different container sizes are available. Collection is offered once or twice a week, depending upon your needs.

For information and pricing, call Customer Service at 310-677-6500 or 1-800-774-0222, or visit www.keepingrheclean.com/horsemanure.html on the Internet.

State bill prompts safe "sharps" disposal programs

SB1305, a bill signed by Governor Schwarzenegger on July 12, 2006, prohibits the placement of home-generated "sharps" in solid waste and recycling containers effective September 1, 2008.

Diabetics and others use thousands of needles every day as part of treatments for chronic medical conditions. Many of these sharps are improperly disposed of and end up in residential trash bins or recycling carts, creating a safety and health risk for children, people in the community, and Waste Management workers, both on the route and at collection facilities.

To address this issue, Waste Management will be implementing the convenient Sharps Disposal by Mail System for residents. The Sharps Disposal by Mail System, which is administered by Waste Management's partner, Sharps Compliance, Inc., will provide individuals with a way to dispose of used hypodermic needles, lancets, test strips, and other small quantity medical waste. Each sys-

tem includes a specially designed sharps container and a postage-prepaid shipping container, ensuring residents' medical waste will be delivered safely by the U.S. Postal Service to a certified medical waste facility, where it is destroyed.

We will be introducing the Sharps Disposal by Mail program in Rolling Hills Estates later this year. Watch for more details soon.

In the meantime, if you have questions about proper sharps disposal, call

Waste Management Customer Service at 310-677-6500 or 1-800-774-0222, or visit www.safeneedledisposal.org.



Funded by Waste Management.

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